

New Ashford Select Board/MLP Meeting

New Ashford Town Hall/Zoom

March 4, 2024

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (Chair), Ken McNerney (MLP Manager), Mark Phelps

Others Present: Lori Jayko, Susan Supranowicz, Cindy Grosso, Ed Grosso, Kevin Flicker, Diane George, Richard George, Keith Lacasse

Zoom: Piotr Masiakowski

Meeting opened at 6:30

1. Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2024: On a motion by Mark, seconded by Jason the minutes from the February 21, 2024 New Ashford Select Board/MLP meeting were approved as amended.
2. Public Comment: Berkshire Regional Planning advised Richard George to send another bill to the garbage hauler that has not paid the permit fee and tell them they will be taken to court if they do not pay.
3. Road Commissioner: Keith Lacasse did not receive any calls for tree damage during the recent storm. The roads are holding up, except Ingraham with the frost coming out of the road. Keith suggests putting material on Ingraham and Greylock Roads to repair for winter damage. He did tree work on the ash trees between the Fire Station and the Town Hall.
4. FD Addition: DEP did an aerial photo of the Fire Station from 2008 and 2015 and noticed that the parking lot was expanded. They want that included in the permit filing. The town will need to give a two to one mitigation of square feet that includes the addition and the parking lot. Jason will measure the parking area. Tractor storage could be created near the Salt Shed where the blocks are. The Fire Station is the preferred choice.
5. School House Boundaries: Mark said there is nothing to report from Legal Counsel.
6. Animal Control Officer: Jason reached out to the state and they said the new training requirements for Animal Control Officers are not unreasonable. Ken will talk to Williamstown to see if they might be interested in shared services. If they are not, the Board may reach out to the Berkshire County Select Board Association, Berkshire Regional Planning, and Representative John Barrett.
7. Woodlands Partnership Grant FY24: Mark and Keith met with Piotr. Mark advised Piotr that the surveyor will be able to provide him with a plot plan of the parking lot and Keith can provide how it would be constructed. They talked about vandalism, trash, and security cameras without a resolution. They discussed posting the road with no parking signs (once the parking spaces are established). There's room to make a pull-off just north of where the blocks used to be. They also discussed adding a weight limit to the road and making it open to local traffic only during mud season. Piotr wants something in writing. Ken will make a proposal to the Mohawk Trail Partnership for the grant. If they approve, Mark will draft a memorandum of understanding.

8. MLP: Ken is holding an invoice from Whip City for repairs to 599 Route 7 until he gets clarification on whether town or house infrastructure was involved. The latest Hilltown meeting addressed the two items that are now state taxable. Households pay and it's a pass through on the town's invoice. Ken put in two tickets to fix downed fiber at the end of Roys Road and for the two Verizon cables that are hanging. Jason will ask Andrew about the line that went down, to find out if the town's internet got switched over. The Hub was going off line because of the batteries in the door lock and Jason replaced them.

9. Budgets: Legal Counsel's budget includes an increase. Budgets numbers are in from the Sheriffs 911, Fire Department, Legal Counsel, the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District, Tax Collector, School Committee – down due to enrollment, and Town Clerk expenses. The Board discussed propane usage. The training account was increased by \$500. The Historical Commission said the \$250 for expenses is good. They recommend adding \$500 to the Schoolhouse Stabilization Fund. They expect to use \$350 for paint and \$1,500 for door repair from the schoolhouse restoration gifts and donations account. They will add a gutter to the front of the building. Church maintenance will be added to the budget and agenda for the next meeting.

10. Old and Any Other Unforeseen Business: The Town Clerk would like to purchase voting signs and a stand. She went to the shop in Lanesboro and it cannot do the signs for less than they can be ordered for. She would like to purchase Velcro signs from A Rifken Company and the frame to put them on. The frame is \$169, the signs are \$32 a piece for a total of around \$240. Ken made a motion to approve the purchase of the frame and signs by the Town Treasurer with the town credit card, seconded by Jason. Speed issues with the internet seem less prevalent. An answer to the cause was never provided. Jason will check his router log.

11. Warrant: The warrant was reviewed and signed.

Next meeting March 18 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:25